

Whig and Courier.

BOUTELLE & BURR, PROPRIETORS.

C. A. BOUTELLE, EDITOR.

All business letters should be addressed to Boutelle & Burr, and communications to the Editor to the Editor.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7, 1881.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.
President Arthur's Message, which reached much longer than was reported, containing some fourteen thousand words, was transmitted by telegraph and reached in such imperfect form that anything like a detailed review is impossible. The message was at first made public and the text from Boston over a single wire, but the effort was finally abandoned, and the remainder forwarded in a condensed form, which we have found difficult to put into satisfactory shape. The document bears evidence of the ability and felicitous expression which have marked all of President Arthur's public documents. We must defer consideration of its various topics until a future issue.

THE "GOOD LAW" FOR "COMMON SENSE."

Governor Pittsford, in his published interview, illustrated his absorption of all executive power puts forward the following statement:

"The Secretary of State is an executive officer; he is the Attorney General, the Comptroller, the Auditor, the Treasurer, the Commissioner of the Land Office, and they are all part of the executive branch. They are the officers of the State, and they are the officers of the State."

We beg leave to inform Governor Pittsford that the functions of the Secretary of State are explicitly defined by the Constitution of Maine, and that nowhere is there any hint of his being either the "chief" or the "keeper" of the Governor. On the contrary the State Constitution, which before the advent of Governor Pittsford, was "thought to be the pretty good law and good common sense" provides as follows in Article V, Part Third, Sec. 7: "The Secretary of State shall attend the Governor and Council, Senate, and House of Representatives, in person or by his deputies, as they shall respectively require."

He shall carefully keep and preserve the records of all the official acts and proceedings of the Governor and Council, Senate and House of Representatives, and when required, lay the same before either branch of the Legislature, and receive such other duties as are enjoined by this Constitution or shall be recognized by law.

So that the relations of the Secretary of State to the executive, instead of denoting that the Governor alone constitutes the executive authority, most clearly show that the Constitution assigns it to the "Governor and Council."

SMASHED DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.
The first question became a "local issue" in the hands of the Democrats of the House of Representatives, Saturday evening, and the "free trade" planks of recent Democratic platforms were smashed into kindling wood. After choosing chairman and secretaries of the caucus, Representative J. Proctor Knott, of Kentucky, offered a resolution endorsing the declarations of the Democratic National Convention of 1880, and the proposed object being to put the Democratic members on record in favor of the plank in denouncing "the tariff for revenue only," which it did not prevent a complimentary nomination of Speaker Randall, would serve as a rebuke. The resolution was supported by Representatives Knott of Kentucky, and Rogers of Texas, and opposed by Representatives Hammond of Georgia, McLean of Maryland, Rooker of Mississippi, and Hooker of Alabama. Representative Knott moved to indefinitely postpone consideration of the resolution, and the motion was carried—yes, 13 yeas, and 13 nays. And then, to add emphasis to this "indefinite postponement" of the leading feature of the Democratic platform, the caucus unanimously conferred the complimentary nomination for Speaker upon Sam. J. Randall, of Pennsylvania. Some of the Democrats in Congress seem to be beginning to find out what ailed them in 1880.

A BREVET CAUSE.
The still ignorance with which the house-keeper or billiard-match expert regard city paper who happens to get hold of an editorial pen will prove to render greater judgments on grave questions of law, is very aptly illustrated in the editorial columns of the Boston Post, where on Tuesday the world was informed that: "The Constitution of the State of Maine requires, under penalty of fine and imprisonment, that every citizen, who is a member of the Legislature, shall hold his office at the pleasure of the Executive."

The powerful constitutional writer then goes on to remark that the "Justices of the Supreme Court have knocked this 'musty old instrument higher than a kite,' and adds a lament that 'it has come to pass under Republican rule, that constitutions are good for nothing, save what the 'bank dealer' will give for them as waste paper. One cent a pound, we believe, is the highest rate paid."

Of course the poor fellow don't know enough to know that the Constitution of Maine does not say any such thing, or say anything at all about the Reporter of Decisions whose office is created by statute, and the blame for the exhibition of ignorance and impudence is not to much upon the money-making lawyer upon furnishing a quota of "copy," as upon the man who, if there are any, of a paper that pretends to be such ignorant and insulting assertions of the highest court in this State.

It is safe to say that anybody who pays even one cent of "one cent a pound" for the Boston Post's constitutional opinions, will make a very poor investment.

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Fall and Winter MILLINERY

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HOLIDAY GOODS

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First prize of the New England Fair

in competition with the best

of the kind in the United States

and Third Annual Secretary of State

Walker Blaine, was displayed by

Stern's, from New York for Callao,

leaving despatched from the State

Department to the Chilean Government,

protesting against the recent arrest of

Children of Peru. It is understood that

while the purpose of the despatch is in

the line of a vigorous protest against

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